

## MER

ME'SSURAL. *adj.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] Relating to measure.

TO ME'SSURATE. *v. a.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] To measure; to take the dimension of any thing.

MENSURATION. *n. f.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] The act or practice of measuring; result of measuring.

After giving the *mensuration* and argumentation of Dr. Cumberland, it would not have been fair to have suppressed those of another prelate.

M'ENTAL. *adj.* [mentale, French; *mentis*, Lat.] Intellectual; existing in the mind.

What a *mental* power

Thy eye shoots forth? How big imagination

Moves in this lip? To the dumbness of the gesture

One might interpret. *Shakep. Timon of Athens.*

So deep the pow'r of these ingredients pierc'd,

Ev'n to the inmost feat of *mental* light,

That Adam now enforc'd to close his eyes,

Sunk down, and all his spirits became entranc'd. *Milton.*

The metaphor of taste would not have been so general, had there not been a very great conformity between the *mental* taste and that sensitive taste that affects the palate.

1. Traffick; commerce; trade. *Adison's Spect. N<sup>o</sup>. 409.*

If the ideas be not innate, there was a time when the mind was without those principles; for where the ideas are not, there can be no knowledge, no assent, no *mental* or verbal propositions about them. *Locke.*

She kindly talk'd, at least three hours,

Of plattick forms, and *mental* pow'rs. *Prior.*

Those inward representations of spirit, thought, love, and hatred, are pure and *mental* ideas, belonging especially to the mind, and carry nothing of shape or sense in them.

Watts's *Logic.*

ME'NTALLY. *adv.* [from *mentis*, Latin.] Intellectually; in the mind; not practically, but in thought or meditation.

If we consider the heart the first principle of life, and *mentally* divide it into its constituent parts, we find nothing but what is in any muscle of the body. *Bentley.*

M'ENTION. *n. f.* [mentionis, Fr. *mention*, Latin.] Oral or written expression, or recital of any thing.

Think on me when it shall be well with thee; and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house. *Gen. xl. 14.*

The Almighty introduces the proposal of his laws rather with the *mention* of some particular acts of kindness, than by reminding mankind of his severity. *Rogers's Sermons.*

TO ME'NTION. *v. a.* [mentioner, Fr. from the noun.] To write or express in words or writing.

I will *mention* the loving-kindness of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord. *Isa. lxiii. 7.*

These *mentioned* by their names were princes in their families. *1 Chron. iv. 38.*

The rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat are written in the book of Jehu, who is *mentioned* in the book of Kings. *2 Chron.*

All his transgressions shall not be *mentioned*. *Ezek. xviii.*

MEPHITICAL. *adj.* [mephitis, Lat.] Ill favoured; stinking.

Mephitical exhalations are poisonous or noxious steams issuing out of the earth, from what cause soever. *Quincy.*

MERCA'NT. *adj.* [mercator, Lat.] Strong; racy.

MERCA'NTILE. *adj.* [mercator, Lat.] To be sold or bought. *Diet.*

MERCA'NTISE. *n. f.* [mercatura, Latin.] The practice of buying and selling.

MERCA'NTISE. *n. f.* [from *mercaturus*.] Venality; respect to hire or reward.

To forego the pleasures of sense, and undergo the hardships that attend a holy life, is such a kind of *mercantise*, as none but a selfish, believing soul is likely to be guilty of; if fear itself, and even the fear of hell, may be one justifiable motive of men's actions. *Boyle.*

MERCENARY. *adj.* [mercenaire, Fr. *mercenarius*, Lat.] Venal; hired; sold for money; acting only for hire.

Many of our princes, woe the while!

Lie down'd, and bled in mercenary blood. *Shakespeare.*

Divers Almaines, who served in the garrison, being merely mercenary, did easily incline to the strongest. *Haywood.*

The appellation of servant imports a mercenary temper, and

denotes such an one as makes his reward both the sole motive and measure of his obedience. *South's Sermon.*

I was not for nothing I the crown resign'd;

I still must own a mercenary mind. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

MERCENARY. *n. f.* [mercenaire, Fr.] A hireling; one retained or serving for pay.

He a poor mercenary serves for bread;

For all his travel, only cloth'd and fed. *Sandys's Paraph.*

MERCER. *n. f.* [mercier, French.] One who sells silks.

The draper and mercer may measure religion as they please, and the weaver may cast her upon what loom he pleases.

Howell's *England's Tears.*

MERCERY. *n. f.* [mercerie, Fr. from *mercier*.] Trade of mercers; dealing in silks.

The mercery is gone from out of Lombard-street and Cheapside into Paternoster-row and Fleet-street. *Graunt.*

TO MERCHAND. *v. n.* [marchander, French.] To transact by traffick.

Ferdinando *merchand* with France for the restoring Rouffignion and Perpignan, oppignorated to them. *Bacon.*

MERCHANDISE. *n. f.* [marchandise, French.] Trade of mercers; commerce; trade.

If a son, that is sent by his father about *merchandise*, fall into some lewd action, his wickedness, by your rule, should be imputed upon his father. *Shakep. Henry V.*

If he pay thee to the utmost farthing, thou hast forgiven nothing: it is *merchandise*, and not forgiveness, to restore him that does as much as you can require. *Taylor.*

2. Wares; any thing to be bought or sold.

Fair when her breast, like a rich laden bark

With precious *merchandise*, the forth doth lay. *Spenser.*

Thou shalt not sell her at all for money; thou shalt not make *merchandise* of her. *Deut. xxi. 14.*

As for any *merchandise* you have brought, ye shall have your return in *merchandise* or in gold. *Bacon.*

So active a people will always have money, whilst they can send what *merchandise* they please to Mexico. *Adison.*

TO MERCHANDISE. *v. n.* To trade; to traffick; to exercise commerce.

The Phoenicians, of whose exceeding *merchandizing* we read so much in ancient histories, were Canaanites, whose very name signifies merchants. *Brewster on Languages.*

MERCHANT. *n. f.* [marchand, French.] One who trafficks to remote countries.

France hath flaw'd the league, and hath attach'd

Our merchants goods at Bourdeaux. *Shakep. Henry VIII.*

The Lord hath given a commandment against the merchant city to destroy the strong holds thereof. *Isa. xxiii. 11.*

The most celebrated merchants in the world were situated in the island of Tyre. *Adison's Freeholder, N<sup>o</sup>. 42.*

MERCHANTLY. *adj.* [from *merchant*.] Like a merchant.

MERCHANTLIKE. *adj.* [from *merchant*.] Like a merchant.

MERCHANT-MAN. *n. f.* [merchant and man.] A ship of trade.

Pirates have fair winds and a calm sea, when the just and peaceful *merchant-man* hath them. *Taylor.*

In the time of Augustus and Tiberius, the southern coasts of Spain sent great fleets of *merchant-men* to Italy. *Arbuthnot.*

MERCHANTABLE. *adj.* [mercabilis, Lat. from *merchant*.] Fit to be bought or sold.

Why they placed this invention in the beaver, beside the medical and *merchantable* commodity of castor, or parts conceived to be bitten away, might be the sagacity of that animal. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*

MERCIABLE. *adj.* [from *mercy*.] This word in *Spenser* signifies merciful.

Naught but well mought him betight;

He is so meek, wife, *merciable*,

And with his word his work is convenable. *Spenser's Faerie Queene.*

MERCI'FUL. *adj.* [mercy and full.] Compassionate; tender; kind; unwilling to punish; willing to pity and spare.

Be *merciful*, O Lord, unto thy people thou hast redeemed. *Deut. xxx. 8.*

MERCI'FULLY. *adv.* [from *merciful*.] Tenderly; mildly; with pity; with compassion.

Make the true use of those afflictions which his hand, *mercifully* severe, hath been pleased to lay upon thee. *Arbuthnot.*

MERCI'FULNESS. *n. f.* [from *merciful*.] Tenderness; willingness to spare.

The band that ought to knit all these excellencies together is a kind of *mercifulness* to such a one, as is in his soul conversant to such perfections.

Use the means ordinary and lawful, among which *mercifulness* and liberality is one, to which the promise of secular wealth is most frequently made. *Hanmer.*

MERCILESS. *adj.* [from *mercy*.] Void of mercy; pitiless; hard hearted; cruel; severe.

His mother *merciless*,

Most *merciless* of women Wyden hight,

Her other son fast sleeping did oppress,

And with most cruel hand him murdered. *Shakespeare, Faerie Queene.*

The foe is *merciless*, and will not pity. *Shakespeare, Titus Andronicus.*

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Think not their rage so desperate t' essay

An element more *merciless* than they. *Denham.*

What God so mean,

So *merciless* a tyrant to obey! *Dryden's Juvenal.*

Whatever ravages a *merciless* distemper may commit, she shall have one man as much her admirer as ever. *Pope.*

The torrent *merciless* imbibes

Commissions, perquisites, and bribes. *Swift.*

MERCILESSLY. *adv.* [from *merciless*.] In a manner void of pity.

MERCILESSNESS. *n. f.* [from *merciless*.] Want of pity.

MERCURIAL. *adj.* [mercurialis, Lat.]

1. Formed under the influence of mercury; active; sprightly.

I know the shape of 's leg: This is his hand,

His foot *mercurial*, his martial thigh,

The brawns of Hercules. *Shakep. Cymbeline.*

This youth was such a *mercurial*, as could make his own part, if at any time he chanced to be out. *Bacon's Hen. VII.*

Tully considered the dispositions of a sincere, more ignorant, and less *mercurial* nation, by dwelling on the pathetic part. *Swift's Miscel.*

2. Consisting of quicksilver.

MERCURITICA'TION. *adj.* [from *mercury*.] The act of mixing any thing with quicksilver.

I add the ways of *mercuritication*. *Boyle.*

MERCURY. *n. f.* [mercurius, Latin.]

1. The chemist's name for quicksilver is *mercury*.

The gall of animals and *mercury* kill worms; and the water in which *mercury* is boiled has this effect. *Arbuthnot.*

2. Sprightly qualities.

Thus the *mercury* of man is fix'd,

Strong grows the virtue with his nature mix'd;

The dios cements what else were too refin'd,

And in one int'rest body acts with mind. *Pope.*

3. A news-paper.

4. It is now applied, in cant phrase, to the carriers of news and pamphlets. *Arbuthnot.*

MERCURY. *n. f.* [mercurialis, Latin.] A plant.

The leaves of the *mercury* are crenated, and grow by pairs opposite: the cup of the flower consists of one leaf, which expands and is cut into three segments; these are male and female in different places: the flowers of the male grow in long spikes, and consist of many stamina and apices, which are loaded with farina: the ovary of the female plant becomes a testiculated fruit, having a single round seed in each cell. *Miller.*

Herb *mercury* is of an emollient nature, and is eaten in the manner of spinach, which, when cultivated in a garden, it greatly exceeds. *Hill's Mat. Med.*

MERCY. *n. f.* [merci, French, contracted from *misericordia*, Latin.]

1. Tenderness; goodness; pity; willingness to save; clemency; mildness; unwillingness to punish.

Oh heav'n have *mercy* on me!

— I say, amen. *Shakespeare.*

And have you *mercy* too?

*Mercy* is not strain'd;

It dropeth, as the gentle rain from heav'n,

Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;

It blest him that gives and him that takes. *Shakespeare.*

Arise, and have *mercy* upon Zion. *Psal. cii. 13.*

Thou, O God, art gracious, long-suffering, and in *mercy* ordering all. *Wisd. xv. 1.*

Examples of justice must be made for terror to some; examples of *mercy* for comfort to others: the one procures fear, and the other love. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

Good heav'n, whose darling attribute we find

Is boundless grace, and *mercy* to mankind,

Abhors the cruel. *Dryden.*

We adore his undeserv'd *mercy* towards us, that he made us the chief of the visible creation. *Bentley's Sermons.*

2. Pardon.

'Twere a paper lost,

As offer'd *mercy* is. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*

Cry *mercy* lords,

That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here. *Shakespeare.*

I cry thee *mercy* with all my heart, for suspecting a friar of the least good-nature. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*

3. Discretion; power of acting at pleasure.

Condition!

What good condition can a treaty find

I th' part that is at *mercy*? *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

The most authentic record of so ancient a family should lie at the *mercy* of every infant who flings a stone. *Pope.*

A lower is ever complaining of cruelty while any thing is denied him; and when the lady ceases to be cruel, she is from the next moment, at his *mercy*. *Swift.*

MERCY-SEAT. *n. f.* [mercy and seat.]

The *mercy-seat* was the covering of the ark of the covenant, in which the tables of the law were deposited: it was of gold, and at its two ends were fixed the two cherubims, of the same metal, which with their wings extended for-

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wards, seemed to form a throne for the majesty of God, who in scripture is represented as sitting between the cherubims, and the ark was his footstool: it was from hence that God gave his oracles to Moses, or to the high-priest that consulted him. *Calm.*

Make a *mercy-seat* of pure gold. *Exod. xxv. 17.*

MERE. *adj.* [merus, Latin.] That or this only; such and no other thing else; this only.

This avarice

Strikes deeper, grows with more pernicious root

Than Summer-teeming lust; and it hath been

The sword of our slain kings: yet do not fear,

Scotland hath foilons to fill up your will

Of your *mere* own. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

I have engag'd myself to a dear friend,

Engag'd my friend to his *mere* enemy,

To feed my means. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*

The *mere* Irish were not admitted to the benefit of the laws of England, until they had purchased charters of denization. *Darwin on Ireland.*

From *mere* success nothing can be concluded in favour of any nation upon whom it is bestowed. *Atterbury.*

What if the head, the eye, or ear repin'd,

To serve *mere* engines to the ruling mind. *Pope.*

Let Eastern tyrants from the light of heav'n

Seclude their bosom slaves, meanly pollit'd

Of a *mere*, lifeless, violated form. *Thomson's Spring.*

MERE or mer, whether in the beginning, middle, or end, always signify the same with the Saxon *mere*, a pool or lake. *Gilpin's Grammar.*

MERE. *n. f.* [mere, Saxon.]

1. A pool; commonly a large pool or lake: as, *Winnemere*.

I may say nothing of *meres* stored both with fish and fowl. *Cromwell's Remains.*

2. A boundary.

The nullayer of a *mere*-stone is to blame: but it is the unjust judge that is the capital remover of land-marks, who defteth aints of lands. *Bacon.*

MERE'LY. *adv.* [from *mere*.] Simply; only; thus and no other way; for this and for no other end or purpose.

Which thing we ourselves would grant, if the use thereof had been *merely* and only mystical. *Hooker, l. v.*

These external manners of laments

Are *merely* shadows to the unseen grief,

That swells with silence in the torrid soul. *Shakespeare.*

It is below reasonable creatures to be conversant in such diversions as are *merely* innocent, and have nothing else to recommend them. *Adison's Spect. N<sup>o</sup>. 93.*

Above a thousand bought his almanack *merely* to find what he said against me. *Swift.*

Prize not your life for other ends

Than *merely* to oblige your friends. *Swift.*

MERE'TRICIOUS. *adj.* [meretricius, meretrix, Latin.]

Whorish; such as is practised by prostitutes; alluring by false show.

Our degenerate understandings having suffered a sad divorce from their dearest object, defile themselves with every *meretricious* semblance, that the variety of opinion presents them with. *Glanville's Sleep.*

Not by affected, *meretricious* arts,

But strict harmonious symmetry of parts. *Roscommon.*

MERE'TRICIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *meretricious*.] Whorishly; after the manner of whores.